

Symposium

PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF ARTS AND CULTURE STUDIES

16 May 2017, 14:30 to 17:00hrs

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Woudestein Campus, Van der Goot building, Room Shanghai (M2-12)

Hosted by the Department of Arts and Culture Studies, Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication and with generous financial support from the Erasmus Trust Fund.

The event is followed by a reception with drinks.

We are very pleased to welcome two boundary-defying pioneers on a single stage. Both our distinguished speakers have achieved excellence in their respective disciplines to then cross the traditional divide between art history and social scientific work on arts and culture. **Christian Huemer** is an art historian by training, who is now a leading figure in the collection and quantitative analysis of digital databases on historical arts markets. **Michael Hutter** is a renowned cultural economist and sociologist, who will introduce aspects of his influential recent publication on the joyful economy. He includes in-depth discussions of creative works in a manner more familiar in the field of art history. Our speakers will inspire anybody interested in pushing disciplinary boundaries and thus develop novel insights into the cultural sector. We are looking forward to a lively debate.

The event is hosted by Filip Vermeylen and moderated by Christian Handke.

Programme:

14:30 Welcome with coffee and tea

15:00 Exploring Art Markets of the Past: Tools and Methods in the Age of Big Data
Christian Huemer, Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles

The recent proliferation of data and the emergence of new computational techniques are not only influencing decision making processes in contemporary culture; they also have an increasing impact on our understanding of the past. Big data analytics, defined as the process of examining large amounts of information to uncover hidden patterns and unknown correlations, lend themselves to the study of art markets. Yet, contrary to more quantitatively inclined disciplines such as cultural economics (which usually focuses on contemporary data), art history has barely started to endorse this new opportunity. The presentation will showcase some computational approaches to larger datasets from the [Getty Provenance Index®](#), demonstrating the effective use of network, spatial, temporal, textual, and other algorithmic analysis for the history of art markets.



Christian Huemer is Head of the Project for the Study of Collecting and Provenance at the Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, where he has overseen collaborative research projects, such as “London and the Emergence of a European Art Market, c. 1780-1820” and “The Business of Art in the ‘Third Reich’.” He is also Adjunct Professor at the Sotheby’s Institute of Art (Los Angeles), Board Member of The International Art Market Studies Association (TIAMSA), and Editor-in-Chief of the book series “Studies in the History of Collecting & Art Markets” (Brill).

16:00 The Rise of the Joyful Economy: Artistic Invention and Economic Change

Michael Hutter, Berlin Social Science Center (WZB)

How are artistic ideas translated into successful commercial productions, and how does economic growth impact on artistic invention? Cases, ranging from the Italian Renaissance to the present, are presented in a theoretical framework where social actors make moves in diverse worlds of value, or “serious plays”. The mutual irritations lead to controversies and manias which, in turn, result in new “joyful products”.



Michael Hutter was director of the research unit “Cultural Sources of Newness” at Berlin Social Science Center (WZB) and Research Professor at the Institute of Sociology, Technische Universität Berlin, (2008-14). His research residencies include the Getty Research Institute (2003/4 and 2007). Among his recent publications are “The Rise of the Joyful Economy” (Routledge, 2015), “Moments of Valuation” (co-editor, Oxford U. Press, 2015) and “Perspectives on Innovation Society” (co-editor, Springer, 2017).

17:00 Drinks